



API Number Explanation

Every oil and gas well permitted in West Virginia since 1929 has been issued an API (American Petroleum Institute) number. This API is a unique number used by agencies to identify and track oil and gas wells. The API number is required to be posted on every oil and gas well. If you have a question about a particular well, it is very helpful if you know the API number.

The API number has the following format:

47-001-00001

47 = State code. 47 is the state code for West Virginia. All API's in WV will begin with 47.

001 = The next three digits are the County Code. County codes are odd numbers, beginning with 001 (Barbour) continuing, alphabetically, to 109 (Wyoming). The list of county codes is below.

00001 = Well number. Each well will have a unique well number. Well numbers are ordered sequentially by the order they are issued. The smaller the number, the older the well.

Examples:

47-001-00001 – The first API number issued in Barbour County.

47-095-02000 – The 2,000th API number issued in Tyler County.

Exceptions and Practices

Over the years, different practices have developed concerning API numbers. Within West Virginia, sometimes the 47 state code is dropped. Also, some computer systems and databases have dropped the leading “0” on some county codes. Some systems have dropped the hyphen (-) between the county and well number.

Examples below show these exceptions. All represent the same well.

47-085-01250 = A Ritchie county well with full API number.

085-01250 = The same well, state code has been dropped.

85-01250 = The same well, leading “0” dropped.

8501250 = The same well, leading “0” and hyphen dropped.



WEST VIRGINIA COUNTY CODES

County		County	
Code	Name	Code	Name
001	Barbour	057	Mineral
003	Berkeley	059	Mingo
005	Boone	061	Monongalia
007	Braxton	063	Monroe
009	Brooke	065	Morgan
011	Cabell	067	Nicholas
013	Calhoun	069	Ohio
015	Clay	071	Pendleton
017	Doddridge	073	Pleasants
019	Fayette	075	Pocahontas
021	Gilmer	077	Preston
023	Grant	079	Putnam
025	Greenbrier	081	Raleigh
027	Hampshire	083	Randolph
029	Hancock	085	Ritchie
031	Hardy	087	Roane
033	Harrison	089	Summers
035	Jackson	091	Taylor
037	Jefferson	093	Tucker
039	Kanawha	095	Tyler
041	Lewis	097	Upshur
043	Lincoln	099	Wayne
045	Logan	101	Webster
047	McDowell	103	Wetzel
049	Marion	105	Wirt
051	Marshall	107	Wood
053	Mason	109	Wyoming
055	Mercer		